

Application No. 10/663,063

Reply to Office Action

*REMARKS*

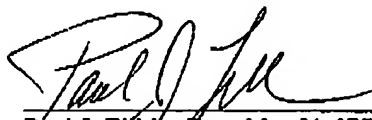
Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action dated March 24, 2005, and the art cited therein. In response, applicant has canceled, without prejudice, claims 1-18 and added new claims 19-39 to further define the invention. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments. Applicant believes that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the pending Office Action, claims 7-9, 14, and 15 were objected to based on various informalities. Claims 1-12, 15, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,796,860 to Diel. Claims 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Diel in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,602,245 to Meisel. The Office Action indicated that claims 17 and 18 are clear of the prior art. In response, applicant has canceled, without prejudice, claims 1-18, thereby rendering moot the foregoing objections and rejections, and added new claims 19-39.

New claim 19 is directed to a valve having a C-shaped retainer that is movable in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the valve to an open position so as to permit the spool to move along the longitudinal axis of the valve. The applied art fails to teach or suggest such a valve. New claims 33 and 38 recite a valve having a locking device that is neither taught nor suggested by the applied references. The remaining new claims depend from one of the foregoing new claims, and, thus, have the same patentable features.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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